(d) Aircraft are considered airworthy as long as they are maintained as per annual maintenance programme of DGCA as well as the regulatory requirements stipulated by the DGCA as well as the regulatory authorities of the aircraft manufacturing countries. All the aircraft in Air India's fleet are maintained in airworthy condition without compromising safety factors and meet all the requirements of the regulatory authorities.

(e) Air India has submitted project reports for Government's approval for induction of 18 x B 737-800W aircraft by its subsidiary AICL and 50 new aircraft by Air India during the period 2006-07 to 2012-13.

Decline in IA's market share

802. SHRI C. PERUMAL:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the market share of Indian Airlines has come down to 38.2 per cent when compared to the previous market share of 65.9 per cent in 1997-98 due to competition by the private sector in aviation industry; and

(b) if so, what measures Government are taking to improve its market share in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the year 1997-98, the market share of Indian Airlines Ltd. was 65.4% and 37.1% in the year 2004-05.

(b) Indian Airlines proposes to undertake fleet augmentation/renewal to increase its capacity share so as to increase its market share. Besides this the Indian Airlines is taking following measures to improve its market share:—

— Marketing initiatives

— In-flight initiatives

— Service upgrades on ground

— Improvements in cabin ambience.

The Government encourages and supports Indian Airlines in its endeavour to increase its market share.

Operation of International services by AI

803. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the global civil aviation market and the tourist sector are poised to grow annually by 20 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Air India had taken a decision to operate international flights from cities other than Delhi and Mumbai;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Air India had chalked out ambitious plans to overcome shortage of planes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) IATA has forecast an average global annual growth rate of 6% for the air transport sector for the five-years period of 2004—08, whereas World Tourism and Travel Council has estimated an annualized growth rate till 2014 for Global Travel and Tourism (T&T) economy GDP as 3.7% and an annualized growth rate for global T&T economy employment as 1.9%.

(b) Air India is already operating direct services out of Ahmedabad and Kolkata and Amritsar. Besides this, Air India express, a subsidiary of Air India has commenced operations from points in Kerala to Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Muscat, Dubai, and Salalah.

(c) and (d) Air India and Air India Charters Limited (AICL), a subsidary of Air India, have submitted the following Projects for approval to the Government:

(i) for acquisition of 18 x B 737-800W aircraft for induction by AICL at a total cost of Rs. 4,951 crores; and